IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, after the title insert:

--**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

1. Field of the Invention--.

Page 1, after first paragraph, insert:

--2. Description of the Related Art--.

Page 1, after third paragraph, insert:

--**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**--.

Page 2, delete first full paragraph;

Page 3, after first full paragraph, insert:

--**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**--;

Page 4, before first sixth paragraph, insert:

--**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**--;

Page 4, sixth paragraph, amend as follows:

--The continuous casting device 1 according to Fig. 1 is comprised of a two-part support frame 2a, 2b with a two-part

lifting platform 3a, 3b, wherein the lifting platform receives the casting mold (not shown), for example, a mold for casting thin slab. As a result of the side view being shown, only the support frame element 2a and the lifting platform element 3a are visible. A lifting platform element has an L-shaped basic form (see Fig. 3) and is comprised of two parts 31a, 32a symmetrical tot he longitudinal axis. The lifting platform element 3a is supported on a stationary support frame element 2a. It receives a lifting cylinder 4a whose plunger ~~5a~~ is anchored in the foot area 33a of the lifting table 3a. The lifting platform element 3a and thus the mold are subjected to an oscillating movement.--

Paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5, amend as follows:

--By means of guide elements in the form of a spring systems 61a, 62a, 63a, 64a the lifting platform element 3a is supported on corresponding parts of the support frame 2a. In the foot area of the lifting platform element 33a two cubes 71a, 72a are fastened which provide the connection between the lifting platform element and the spring systems 61a, 62a. On the other side, spring systems 63a, 64a are also connected to the support frame ~~2~~ 2a. For this purpose, the head area of the lifting platform element is provided with two projections 81a, 82a which rest on the spring systems 64a, 63a. The spring systems 64a, 63a

are supported on parts of the support frame 2a whose configuration is not illustrated in detail in this connection.--

Page 7, first full paragraph, amend as follows:

--Figs. 5 and 6 show a side view as well as a plan view of a monolithic spring systems in detail. A spring system is comprised of two spring legs 201 and 202 which are arranged at a right angle to one another. In this embodiment, one spring leg 201, 202, respectively, is formed by a unitary U-shaped leaf spring which thus forms an upper part 201a~~, 202a~~ and a lower part 201b~~, 202b~~. While the width B of the leaf spring has a smaller effect on the properties of the entire system, the length L and the thickness D of the individual leaf spring or the tine of the formed tuning fork have a greater influence on the properties of the total spring system. When using a casting mold for thin slab, the following dimensions are recommended for the spring system: width B = 100 mm; length L more than 200 mm; thickness D approximately 12 for 14 mm. The spacing between the upper and the lower spring parts 201a, 201b in the unloaded state is 20 mm $\pm$ 5 mm. The spring material is preferably stainless spring steel.--

Page 8, only full paragraph, amend as follows:

--In comparison to this, Figs. 7 and 8 show the side view and plan view of the two-part embodiment of the spring system. The end pieces of the two spring legs are connected by a screw connection to one another. The first spring leg 301 (not completely illustrated here) is comprised of an upper and lower part 301a, 301b. At a right angle to this leg 301 the two parts 302a~~, 302b~~ of the second spring leg 302 are arranged. By means of the screw connection 303 which extends to the bottom of the part 301a, the end pieces of the spring legs are connected to one another. In an analog fashion, the lower parts of the two spring legs 301b and 302b are connected with one another by a screw connection 304. In addition, a slide 305 between the parts 301b and 302b is provided whose one side surface 305a can be screwed down by an additional screw connection 306 against the end piece of the lower part 301b. Overall, the lower part of the spring system is thus adjustable in the direction illustrated by the arrow.--

Paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9, amend as follows:

--The plan view of Fig. 8 illustrates that at the lower area of the spring system an adjustment of the spring system in two

directions, indicated by the arrows, is possible by means of the two adjusting screws 306 and 307. The two parts of the intermediate slide 305a ~~30a~~, 305b rest by means of fitting sheet metal panels 306a, 306b on the corresponding end pieces. Overall, with this embodiment with the above mentioned concrete dimensions of a length of 200 to 220 mm and a thickness of 12 or 14 mm, a stroke of ± 5 mm can be compensated. The adjusting stroke on the adjusting side is also ± 5 mm.--